

HOUSE RESOLUTION 155

By Hardaway

A RESOLUTION to honor Reverend Willie Ward, Jr., pastor of Mt. Pisgah Christian Methodist Episcopal Church.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body honor those individuals who have answered a divine call to the ministry and who have served with dedication, vigor, and enthusiasm to perform God's work for their congregations and their communities; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Willie Ward, Jr., the pastor of Mt. Pisgah Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, is one such venerable individual, who has inspired his congregation with his faith and leadership since 2008, when he was appointed the fortieth pastor of Mt. Pisgah C.M.E. Church; and

WHEREAS, a native Memphian, Reverend Ward was reared in the Binghampton community and attended First Baptist Church on Broad Avenue as a child; he accepted Christ and was baptized at the age of eleven under the guidance of the late Reverend H.C. Cherry; and

WHEREAS, prior to entering the ministry, Pastor Ward amassed more than twenty years of managerial experience in diverse and challenging work environments; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Ward holds an associate's degree in management technology from State Technical Institute at Memphis, a bachelor's degree in business administration from LeMoyne Owen College, and a master's degree in Christian studies from Union University; and

WHEREAS, after accepting the call to ministry, Reverend Ward was licensed to preach in the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in July 1995 and was subsequently sent to Piperton for his first assignment; and

WHEREAS, as a supply pastor, he served the Mt. Hebrew C.M.E. Church family in October 1996; and

WHEREAS, in July 1997, Reverend Ward was appointed pastor of Washington Chapel C.M.E. Church, where he was blessed to offer ten years of dedicated service to the congregation and community; and

WHEREAS, in addition to serving as the pastor at Mt. Pisgah C.M.E. Church, Reverend Ward currently serves as the chairman of the West Tennessee Region Annual Conference Board of Trustees, chairman of the Northeast District Finance Committee, chairman of Greater Memphis Area CME Ministers' Alliance Finance Committee, and as a member of the First Episcopal District Technology Center Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, deeply committed to family values of the highest order, Reverend Ward has enjoyed the love and companionship of his wife, Dorothy, for the past thirty-nine years. The Wards are the proud parents of three children, grandparents of six grandchildren, and great-grandparents of two great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Ward's abiding love for the ministry and his many positive contributions to his church, his community, and this State are deeply appreciated, and it is wholly fitting that we recognize him for his many achievements; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we commend Reverend Willie Ward, Jr., pastor of Mt. Pisgah Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, for his honorable and astute service to the good people of Shelby County and this State and salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.